
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 9

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

December 28, 1989

Baltimore Arena

Baltimore, MD

Happy New Year! Welcome to the issue of "Arena Report" that had a hard time finding it's identity. Initially I had planned on doing a PWF show this weekend for a main event. But that fell through as they won't be running until their final card at Eddie Graham Sports on 1/28. (See details in Ramblings.) Next up was a choice between Titan shows in Providence (night) and Hartford (day) on New Years Eve. That was a no go as Vince cancelled the shows. (Again, details in Ramblings.) Then it was an NWA card in Steubenville, OH that Whiff lover John Lanigan was going to cover for me. That show was cancelled due to a poor advance. Plus they wouldn't have gotten a walk up with a Steeler playoff game at 4 o'clock. I like to be current with my main report but all my options fell through. So thanks to Bruce Ginevan, I have a card from Baltimore to report on. The debut of Evan Ginzburg's column graces this issue and it should be a scoopful "Ramblings" section this issue. A couple of reports and letters round out this go around.

Next issue will be the Royal Rumble PPV show which I'll be attending live with some good friends. I know alot of you won't be able to see this show as Vince's ploy with foregoing Viewers Choice seems to be backfiring. I know alot of people that can't get this show due to their cable company not carrying it. Wrestling (live shows) is really dry down here. The NWA has nothing through February and Vince doesn't want to ruin the chance for a sellout with any other area shows. His next date in the area will be 2/23 from Lakeland but I'll be at the get together in Greensboro for Wrestle War '90 promoted by "Grand Poobah" Steve Sims. If you remember my last Sims get together issue from Philly, you'll know it'll be fun reading.

Lots of first look see people out there and I thank you for your interest. I apologize to those who tried to call this past week as the phone company screwed up our install and our lines weren't working until Thursday. The house is looking great and I thank my benefactor immensley. "Arena Report" is published twice per month at the price of 75¢ per issue. All subscriptions, match reports, letters, and other info can be sent to Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct. Lake Mary, FL 32746. Please, everyone note new address if you didn't last issue. Thanks. A number at the top left corner indicates how many you have left on your subscription. Without any further adieu, let's go to the renovated harbor area of Oriole town.

Opening Match

New Zealand Militia beat Tommy Rich & Ranger Ross as Jacko Victory pinned "Wildfire". Dud

2nd Match

Kevin Sullivan destroyed and pinned Hector Guerrero who was a sub for the injured Eddie Gilbert. C

Tag Team Match

Midnight Express beat Dynamic Dudes when Jim Cornette hit Johnny Ace with the racquet. (Too bad it wasn't a shoot.) Fans were 90% behind the Express. B

4th Match

Brian Pillman beat Michael Hayes via DQ when P.S. hit the ref. Hayes was a sub for Jimmy Garvin. C

Six Man Tag Team Match

Sting, Ole and Arn Anderson beat Buzz Sawyer, Dragonmaster, and Great Muta when Arn pinned Dragonmeister. Lots of action with Sting, Sawyer and Muta with the Great one looking very good. B

Eight Man Tag Team Match

Road Warriors & The Steiners went to a double DQ with Doomless & Wild Samoans. A wild brawl from the sound of the bell. Steiners and Samoans worked real tight. C+

NWA World Heavyweight Championship

Ric Flair retained the world title by defeating Lex Luger via DQ when the "Total Package" hit the ref. Same finish as Hayes-Pillman. You think they could have done something better. Match was too short. B ATT: 8,000

A Piece of My Mind

by Evan Ginzburg

Welcome to a new year, a new decade, and the newest feature in "Arena Report", Ron's given me free reign over the column so expect ruthlessly honest results along with news, satire, nostalgia, and a few surprises thrown in.

Let's start off with some results from the 12/8 WWF card that was held at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY...

1. Lanny Poffo W Sam Houston- The match wasn't that bad but the fans were dead. (Not half as dead as Sam's career though.) **
2. Mark Young W Conquistador #1- There's only so long a brain can live without stimulus...luckily this was a short bout. $\frac{1}{4}$ *
3. Greg Valentine drew Ron Garvin- Canada's Garvin introduced from North Carolina because he's a face and McMahon wants to capitalize on traditionally strong U.S.-Canadian hostilities. Actually, a surprisingly good action-packed match.. (Just remember--these guys aren't slow, they're deliberate.) ** $\frac{7}{4}$
4. Curt Hennig W Hulk Hogan via count out. Curt took one amazing bump after another...all action...lots of outside interference by the Genius.. Excellant match (and believe me, I'm not a Hulk fan)... The only thing that really put any sort of damper on it was Hogan's predictability and his tired Superman routine--otherwise, 14 minutes of solid action. *** $\frac{1}{4}$
(During intermission they played songs from "Piledriver" and "The Wrestling Album"--a.k.a. the top ten from Hell.)
5. Bushwhackers W Bolsheviks-No redeeming social value. -*
6. Dino Bravo pinned Tito Santana--Dead wrestlers rolled in their graves this was so horrendous. A ground breaking match so bad we had to revise our ratings system to lower the scale. Even Boris Zhukov was seen leaving the building shaking his head in disgust over this one. -*****
7. Dusty Rhodes W Big Boss Man--Ball and Chain match--After wrestling all

those one hour draws for the NWA, Big Dust took a well deserved respite by sleep walking through this 4 minute stinker. I did like when he hit the Boss Man over the head with the ball though, catapulting this from a negative star match to a solid resounding dud.

Even More ON Dino Bravo!--As our readers may or may not know, I am a former N.Y.C. classroom teacher. After watching the Bravo-Tito match silence 12,000 rabid wrestling fans, I came up with an idea that could possibly revolutionize education. Since Dino is capable of inducing some sort of mass hypnotic state in which multitudes of people are rendered semi-comatose, teachers must utilize his talents in the classroom. They can show his tapes the first 6-7 minutes of each period, thereby lobotomizing unruly kids. (If it worked with thousands, it can work with thirty for sure.) I truly believe that if this discovery of mine is utilized properly, Dino Bravo can be a catalyst for great social and educational change.

Final Notes-- Happy New Year to all...Thanks to Gary Fishman for his help on the column...Another thanks to Cody Boyns for having me as a guest on his wrestling radio show in Providence-I fielded questions for an hour and had a blast... Ron Lemieux will soon be featured on America's Most Wanted-authorities have caught on to his frequent address changes... ICW checks into NY-I'll have more on that next time.. Any feedback on this column will be appreciated... See you in a month.

Ramblings

Zany happenings going on in the McMahon empire. I'm sure most of you saw the surprising tag title change as Haku and Andre beat Demo for the belts. What was even more shocking was that Ax got squashed. That bout was the second squash title change I've ever seen. The first was Bill Irwin & Leroy Brown beating Jack Victory & John Tatum for the UWF tag belts a couple of years ago. Is Ax on his way out? December 29 in Binghampton saw Andre throw Ax out of the ring and he was carted out on a stretcher. Not a legit injury. Maybe all this to allow him to leave. Some say the belts are a retirement gift for Andre as Vince's initial plan was for Demolition to drop the straps at Wrestlemania to Hennig and Poffo. AAggh.... Then there was the fiasco in Hartford and Providence on New Years Eve. Arena Reporter Dan Reilly went to the matinee show in Hartford. There was about 5,000 people in attendance when the ring announcer came out and told the crowd that due to the weather, the show had been cancelled. Meanwhile the Fed had sold lots of programs and concessions. It did snow that morning but not enough to cancel. The ring announcer Frank Kosnowski (Cult hero of Louie Fortuna) then announced that the tickets would be good for a date "some time in February. The same crew was scheduled to be in Providence that night where it was raining and 45 degrees. At around three o'clock that afternoon, a trailer ran along the bottom of the NFL wild card game saying the show was cancelled. At least they didn't bilk concession money in Providence too. I heard the crew was in upstate New York the night before but no reports of real bad weather. If Vince just decided to give them New Years Eve off, it'll be a new low. But there has to be more than meets the eye.... Hulk Hogan no showed a show at a sold out St. Louis card due to transportation problems... The Richard Belzer lawsuit against Hogan for that pre-Wrestlemania guest stint on Belzer's show was settled right before it went to trial. No settlement figure was announced... 1/2 in Birmingham for the Superstars taping saw the turning of the Big Boss Man. Slick wanted BBM to steal the million dollar belt from Ted DiBiase but Bubba wouldn't do it. Finally in the third hour, Bubba turned and he and Ted went at it. Expect him to still face Duggan at the Rumble and even for Slick to be there as it wouldn't

Correspondent Reports

Montreal Forum

Montreal, Canada

December 15, 1989

Correspondent: Francois Lalonde

1) Lanny Poffo beat Paul Roma. Not bad but too much stalling from Genius. * 2) Dino Bravo pinned Tito Santana as Tito was going for the flying forearm but Bravo caught him with a side slam. * 3) Rockers and Hart Foundation went to a good 20 minute draw at 21:10. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Rick Martel used a foreign object to defeat Brutus Beefcake. 5) Jake Roberts downed Ted DiBiase via DQ in same finish as everywhere. Virgil interferes, Ted goes to the dressing room and Jake DDT's Virgil. -* 6) Bad News Brown used the ghetto blaster to send Mark Young (sub for Hillbilly) to the showers. -* 7) Curt Hennig beat Hulk Hogan via count out. As Hulk knocked down Poffo, Hennig pearlharbored the egomaniac and he couldn't make it back into the ring. ** Att: 14,442

Pershing Municipal Auditorium

Lincoln, NE

December 28, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Bret Hart beat Al Perez with a piledriver. Match only went four minutes and Al told Bruce while he was getting into the ring that he was doing a quick job tonight. Al is very disenchanted with his stint in Titan thus far. 2) Bushwhackers beat Bolsheviks in 11:00. Worst tag bout Bruce has seen. 3) Canadian Earthquake big splashed Mark Young in three minutes.-----Brother Love had Liz and Sherri on his show. They started a cat fight with Bro Love in the middle. Duggan ran out and chased Sherri away with the 2X4 and then threw Love over the top rope.--- 4) Randy Savage beat Hacksaw Duggan with his feet on the ropes at 9:18 after "Macho Man" hit Hack with the loaded purse. 5) Ron Garvin and Greg Valentine went to a twenty minute slap fest draw. 6) Hercules beat Conquistador #1 with an airplane spin for a submission. (What?) Ref blew the call. 7) Ultimate Warrior retained the I-C Title by pinning Dino Bravo with a press and splash. After, Earthquake attacked Warrior until the Ultimateless one made the comeback. Att: 4,800

Letters To The Editor

Tommy & Pat

What I want to know is where the heck was Tommy Young at Starcade '89? Did he jump (or maybe skip) to the WWF? Do you think Pat's behind this?
The Original Z-Man
Woodstock, ONT

RL- I'm sure Mr. Zingaaaa your aware that Tommy took a legit bump and will be out for a little while. And why are you so interested in Pat's behind?

Curt Hennig

I consider Curt Hennig to be the best heel in the WWF universe. Savage runs hot and cold, DiBiase plays his role great but is boring in the ring, Bret Hart is a tweener, Barry Windham-the invisible man, you get the picture. What about a critique of Curt Hennig's 1) Ability in the ring. 2) Heat 3) Interviews 4) His NWA potential?

Nolk Mai

Florida Keys

RL- I think Curt is one of the top twenty wrestlers in the world today. He wasted a little too much time in the AWA but face it, he was the

champ and we all know how much egos control this sport. But eventually of course, money became more important than the AWA title. Curt's ring-work is great. Consider his 3 and four star matches he's having with the man who needs to be carried by everyone Hulk Hogan. Of course, you can't speak about Hennig these days without mentioning his valet, Lanny Poffo. I may not like Lanny but since he's joined up with Curt, Mr. Perfect's heat has doubled. The fans just hate Lanny and it was a good move in helping get Curt over. Hennig's interviews are good but with Poffo in the background making his facial expressions, it takes a little off the seriousness of the interview. Hennig would be a good addition to the NWA. But let's not forget contracts here. Curt has at least two years left on his so it's unlikely he'll go in the near future. He'd make a great fourth horseman on the heel side though.

Arena Search

Can you tell me the names of the following arenas that have been host to Worldwide Wrestling? Savannah, GA- Pensacola, FL- Bristol, TN.

I thought the State Patrol was supposed to win matches. The Andersons kicked their butts today on TV.

John Herron
Marble Hill, MO

RL- The arenas in Savannah and Pensacola are Civic Centers and the arena in Bristol is called Viking Hall. As for the State Patrol, you just can't have faith in our justice system anymore.

(continued from page 3)

have aired on TV yet. So who cares what the B-Ham fans think. Vince doesn't. Correspondent Gina Holt also mentions that Beefcake, the Rockers, and Barry Windham were notable no shows. Windham looks to be history in the biz as he's met a wealthy girl who wants Barry to give it up. Hmmm, maybe we could have an angle here. It'd be a shame to see a talent like Barry quit the sport but c'est la vie!... Bob Orton starts in Titan this month. He's booked against Bret Hart in MSG on 1/15... As I mentioned at the outset, it looks like Vince has shot off his toe with this cable fiasco he's trying to pull off. Continental Cable which is the third largest in the country won't be carrying the Rumble as lots of other companies will not as well. You can tell they are hurting for carriers as on their shows they are practically begging you to call your company and complain if they are not carrying the show. They go on about how this is America and you have the right to see it. Yeah, tell me that next time you throw someone out of a building for wearing the wrong T-shirt or holding up a wrong banner... The situation here in Orlando with the PWF is strange. They will be holding the final card ever at Eddie Graham Sports Complex on 1/28. After that they'll be looking for a new building. Mike Graham, who owns the complex is no longer involved with this group. He has started renting the building out to other people including a youth soccer club. Can't blame the guy for trying to make money off the thing. I got to see their show on the community channel this week. Before the show, they run a blurb saying that this following program is a paid advertisement. Gosh, if PWF has to pay for that slot, they're in need of some strong Dr. Crane help... The Florida show was the worst I've seen in a long time (in all of wrestling). They had Tommy Rogers, Jim Backlund, Brickhouse, (who turned heel and is feuding with Tyree Pride) and Mark Starr do squashes but the jobbers they used were the worst. The jobber Rogers wrestled almost killed him because he was so 1st... Paul E. Dangerously made his debut as manager in the ICW on 12/30 in Augusta, Maine. During a tag

title match between Phil Appollo & Vic Steamboat against the Lethal Weapons (Dennis Condrey & Doug Gilbert) a masked guy came out and handed Condrey a telephone. He knocked out Appollo and pinned him for the titles. After the pin, Paul E. yanked off his mask but the 800 in attendance had no idea who he was. Sounds like a good angle. Too bad they wasted it on Maine. (Sorry C.C.)... Paul E. is telling everyone he has a March starting date for Titan unless this new venture goes well. It seems I've heard that start date pushed back each day... Tony Atlas pinned Bob Orton on that card as well. It was Cowboy Bob's last job for ICW before starting for Vince... Don't you think it's just a matter of time before Lee Scott takes the best ref bump you've seen in your life?... What is this Ian Mooney crap? I never watch Spotlight but I caught the opening once and couldn't figure out why they're doing that. If anyone can help me out, please do so... The Dynamic Dudes wrestled a squash on NWA Pro this morning and the little girl they picked up out of the crowd was "Wrestling Forum" editor Jon Gallagher's daughter Kelly... Please don't put the mic in front of Larry Zybysko while he's in the ring anymore. In his bout with Mr. Saito (who came to the ring as the unknown Soldier) the fans were chanting "Larry Sucks, Larry sucks" and Zybysko grabbed the mic and said, "No, you all suck." Nice guy... 1/3 in Chattanooga saw the taping of Wrestling Challenge and a Saturday Night's Main Event that will air on 1/27. On Main Event, Hogan and Ultimate Warrior wrestle Hennig and Poffo. After a babyface win, Ultimate is cleaning house with clotheslines when he accidentally hits Hulk with one. Hogan goes down and when he gets up they start pushing each other. They then calm down and shake hands. But the seed has been planted... Look for Kendall Windham to disappear from the NWA. It seems he and daddy Blackjack are in hot water. They were caught passing out counterfeit money. Barry bailed them out and to my knowledge wasn't involved in the scam. A family that stays together, cheats together... The new Skyscraper that was introduced is Master of Pain from Memphis fame... Arn Anderson beat the Great Muta for the TV title which will air on the Power Hour next Friday night... Akeem suffering from an ulcer but will return soon... Ric Flair vs. Sting (not Luger) on top at Wrestle War... Clash X from Corpus Christi has Flair, Sting, and Arn vs. Muta, Sawyer, Dragon on top in a cage (no blood again, better give Muta extra red mist), Scrapers-Roadies, Steiners-Doom (masks vs. titles), Cactus Jack-Mil Mascaras (Terry Funk's idea)... They're making Lee Scott the Mulkey brothers of the nineties. He'll feud with Manson... Another reason to hate Dusty Rhodes. When Hulk no showed in St. Louis, they put in a battle royal. Booker Tony Garea wanted Paul Roma to win it since the guy works hard night in and night out. Dusty threw a tantrum and said it was stupid to have Roma win it. When was the last time this idiot did a job and he wants to take the spotlight off a kid who'll only have it for one night. So what happened. Dusty won the royal by eliminating Hennig. Who says Dust doesn't have any influence in the WWF.

Final Word

Thanks to my contributors in this issue. I'd still like to see more letters to Ed or Ron for that matter. Hopefully the months to come will see more live action here in Florida. I much rather report on shows I've seen live and in color. Until 1/21 in O-Town, happy scoops!

See ya,

Ron